

Issue 446

The free news per for Pick users.

pril 1, 1988

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is published periodically by Semaphore Corporation, 207 Granada Drive, Aptos, CA 95003, (408) 688-9200.

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The software alarm clock, revisited

The software alarm clock featured in the last issue of *Product Profiles* has generated a lot of interest. A number of users have contacted us about how they plan to use the programs we presented. Some sites are leaving the code unchanged, while others are adapting the "sleeping sentinel" design for other purposes, such as overnight batch processors, print job schedulers, and so on.

A number of users had questions about some of the ideas we mentioned but didn't show how to implement. All of those questions are answered here.

Q. I'm not an experienced Pick programmer. How do I define the DATE and TIME dictionary words for the REMINDERS file so the SSELECT command works in the STANDBY proc?

A. The DATE and TIME items should look like this:

	DATE		TIME
001	S	001	S
002	0	002	0
003		003	
004		004	
005		005	
006		006	
007	D2-	007	MTS
008	G2 1	008	G3 1
009	R	009	R
010	10	010	10

Q. How can my alarm clock tell if an account I want to send a message to is actually logged on somewhere?

A. On our system, we go ahead and let STANDBY send the message with MSG. If the account isn't logged on, we get error [337] USER IS NOT LOGGED ON. The proc can then test for that error with IF E = 337...

Q. How do we set up a "reminder

acknowledged" program like the RECEIVED routine you hinted at?

A. First, remove the DELETE ID statement from the announce program. That leaves the reminder item in the REMINDERS file so that ANNOUNCE repeatedly finds it and sends it each time STANDBY wakes up.

Then create a RECEIVED proc similar to STANDBY:

PQ
HSSELECT REMINDERS BY DATE BY TIME
STON
HRUN BP RECEIVED
P

The RECEIVED program is similar to ANNOUNCE:

OPEN "REMINDERS" ELSE
STOP "NO REMINDERS!"

MYACCT = SYSTEM(19)

LOOP

READNEXT ID ELSE STOP

ACCT = FIELD(ID," ",1)

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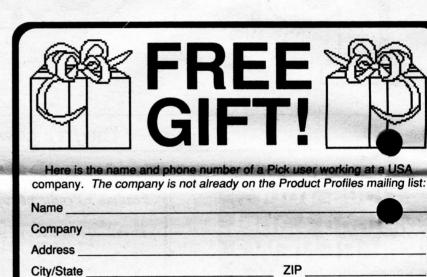
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A Software Alarm Clock



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UNTIL ACCT = MYACCT DO REPEAT
READ MSG FROM ID ELSE MSG = ""
DELETE ID'
PRINT "Reminder ":MSG:" deleted."
STOP
END

The above changes cause a user to repeatedly receive reminders until the user types RECEIVED. The RECEIVED program then simply deletes the oldest reminder filed for the user's account.

Q. Can you show us what a reminders editor would be like?

A. Create a proc named REVIEW that invokes a program named REVIEW, just like the RECEIVED program and proc work:

PQ
HSSELECT REMINDERS BY DATE BY TIME
STON
HRUN BP REVIEW
P

Here's a possible REVIEW program:

OPEN "REMINDERS" ELSE

STOP "NO REMINDERS!"

MYACCT = SYSTEM(19)

100 READNEXT ID ELSE STOP

ACCT = FIELD(ID," ",1)

IF ACCT = MYACCT THEN

READ MSG FROM ID ELSE MSG = ""

IDATE = FIELD(ID," ",3)

ITIME = FIELD(ID," ",4)

LOOP

PRINT "Reminder waiting for ":

PRINT OCONV(IDATE,"D2-"):" ":

PRINT OCONV(ITIME, "MTS") PRINT MSG PRINT "D/T/M/FILE/EXIT/DROP": INPUT COMMAND UNTIL (COMMAND="FILE") OR (COMMAND="EXIT") OR (COMMAND="DROP") DO BEGIN CASE CASE COMMAND = "D" PRINT "DATE": ; INPUT ODATE IDATE = ICONV(ODATE,"D") CASE COMMAND = "T" PRINT "TIME": ; INPUT OTIME ITIME = ICONV(OTIME, "MT") PRINT "MSG": ; INPUT MSG END CASE REPEAT IF COMMAND # "EXIT" THEN DELETE ID

B-IRE E-P B-trees for Pick systems.

Timed of waiting for your computer to SORT or SELECT your large data files? data to quickly find any attribute? Want to scroll files up or down, in any sort order? With B-TREE-P you can instantly search, sort, and scroll any data from any file!

Now you can instantly look up customers by name, street, Zip code, or any other field — not just by customer number. Now you can immediately find inventory entries by quantity, cost, or description — not just by part number. Whatever files you use, now you can instantly locate and display your data any way you want, without having to wait for endless SORTs and SELECTs.

Immediately display any record in any file just by typing one or more starting characters that match any field in the record. You can display not only a selected record, but also any previous and next records, using any sort order you specify. You can jump to any record in a file at any time, then browse through the file by scrolling up or down, a record at a time or a page at a time, in any sort order.

As one of Semaphore's programmers says: "We often ask ourselves why we waited so long to create B-TREE-P. After using it for our own production work, we wonder how we ever got by before without it. A Pick computer without B-TREE-P is like a car without wheels".

B-TREE-P is a proven collection of BASIC subprograms for using B-trees on your computer system. B-trees allow any of the data in any of your files to be instantly located and displayed in any sort order, without having to wait for SORT or SELECT commands.

B-TREE-P and a few optional minor modifications to your existing data entry programs are all that is necessary for you to immediately be able to search, browse, display, or print your data quickly and conveniently. Modifications to your existing data files are absolutely unnecessary!

Here are a few of the ways our customers have put B-TREE-P to work:

 Within minutes of loading the B-TREE-P source code, one of our first customers began using B-TREE-P's standard "browser" for searching a 120,000+ record customer master file. Any name, company, or address can immediately be located and displayed, just by typing one or more characters that match the field. No more waiting for SELECTs!

Another customer has set up B-TREE-P for purchase order inquiries. A
file of multivalued line items and submultivalued delivery dates and
quantities can instantly be viewed by item or by date. Pages can be
scrolled at the terminal, forward or backward. Any range of data can be

instantly printed. No more waiting for SORTs!

• A California county jail uses B-TREE-P for inmate cash accounting. Although cash records are filed by inmate booking numbers, B-TREE-P allows a list alphabetized by the name attribute to be displayed at all times, even as records are created and deleted at other terminals. Any inmate record (or nearest match) can be immediately found and displayed just by typing one or more characters in a name.

• A manufacturer uses B-TREE-P to let marketing personnel instantly display sales orders six different ways: by part, by description, by ship date, by sales rep, by customer name, and by sales territory. With just a few keystrokes, operators can instantly display records under a new sort (subsorts too) or find and output a given item.

B-TREE-P includes all necessary BASIC source code for a B-tree system that works with any file. Included are an insertion subroutine, deletion subroutine, lookup subroutine, previous/next subroutine, and complete instructions. Plus, you receive the source code for a complete demonstration system that uses B-TREE-P to maintain a name and address file, including an editor program for creating and changing name and address records, a browser program for displaying records, and a printer program for listing file items in order without having to wait for a sort.

To order, send your name, address, telephone number, and your check for \$395 (plus tax in California) payable to Semaphore Corp. at 207 Granada Drive, Aptos, CA 95003. Or call us at (408) 688-9200 for more information or to place a COD order. We'll send you complete B-TREE-P source code and all necessary documentation, along with all back issues of our special B-tree newsletter.

B-TREE-P includes a license agreement limiting your use of B-TREE-P to one computer at a time. Multi-CPU and OEM resale agreements are also available. Pick is a trademark of Pick Systems.

Questions Most Frequently Asked About STRIDE/Z

1. What is STRIDE/Z?

STRIDE/Z is an integrated package of manufacturing software for General Automation Zebra computers using the Pick operating system. STRIDE/Z is a product of Semaphore Corporation.

2. What software is included in the STRIDE/Z package?

STRIDE/Z includes 18 modules to automate every aspect of a manufacturing company: accounts payable, accounts receivable, cost accounting, customer service, engineering, fixed assets, general ledger, inspection, order entry, payroll, personnel, production control, programming, purchasing, receiving, shipping, shop floor, and stock room. The production control module includes regenerative Materials Requirement Planning.

STRIDE/Z consists of approximately 200 programs, 350 procs, 80 formatted screens, 655K bytes of online user documentation, and 225K bytes of online programmer cross reference documentation. The approximately 100 files in STRIDE/Z require 2.5 million bytes of disk space for installation. STRIDE/Z uses no assembler code.

3. Why is STRIDE/Z better than other manufacturing packages?

STRIDE/Z works. It was developed from scratch over a two year period at a actual electronics manufacturer, a sales climbed from \$10 million to ever \$20 million.

STRIDE/Z has a clean, modular, well-structured, and conceptually integrated design. All design and implementation work was the effort of an individual programmer. Unlike other large software products, STRIDE/Z is not a collection of ad hoc patches and multiple programming styles.

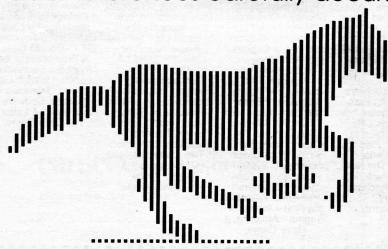
STRIDE/Z simultaneously and correctly updates multiple files as soon as transactions are entered, in order to provide a database that is always up to date, and to avoid unfriendly batch-style processing.

STRIDE/Z is well-documented, especially for the programmer. Extensive cross-references carefully document all program, proc, and data

interdependencies, so that modifications are easy and predictable.

And STRIDE/Z is inexpensive.

How can I find out more about STRIDE/Z?
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Semaphore Corporation welcomes its newest B-TREE-P customers:

Brigham Young University Concept Systems Inc.

Note how REVIEW reads every reminder id, but only edits those for the current account. Also notice how *every* unexited reminder is deleted and then filed anew

Q. How should ANNOUNCE change if STANDBY uses a long sleep time?

A. Lets say you make the STANDBY proc sleep for an hour at a time instead of just 60 seconds. From then on, ANNOUNCE has to be sure to announce not just the past due reminders, but all reminders due in the next hour, otherwise it will be to late for a message by the time ANNOUNCE wakes up again.

The original ANNOUNCE code determines that a reminder is past due if its IDATE is less than or equal to the current DATE() and if its ITIME is less than or equal to the current TIME(). Your new version of ANNOUNCE should use a date and time of one hour later. Note that you can't just add 3,600 seconds to TIME() to determine the time one hour from now, since you might cross midnight, thereby requiring you to also add one to DATE().



Unlock the Secrets in Your Computer!

Pragma (not to be confused with Pragma's Product Profiles) is the original 48-page technical journal for Pick users published quarterly beginning in August 1982. Each issue is packed with software and helpful information, including complete and debugged program listings and detailed, explanatory articles for readers at all levels of experience. Order your Pragma issues today and begin unlocking the secrets in your Pick system! Send \$25 for each 48-page back issue to: Pragma, 207 Granada Dr., Aptos, CA

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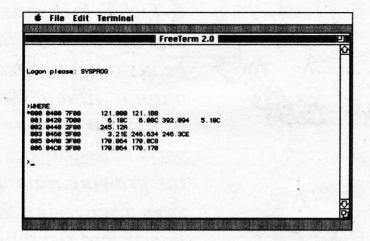
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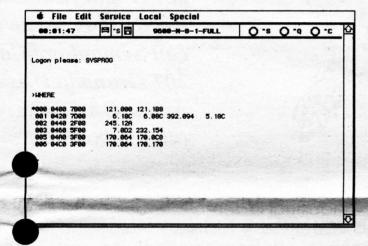
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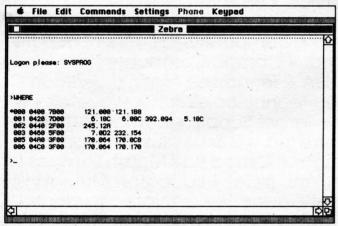
Four programs for connecting your Macs to a Zebra.



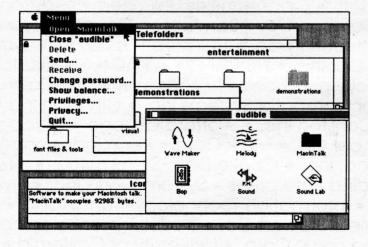
You can use FreeTerm: a simple text-only software emulator that turns your Mac into an ASCII terminal. There's no cursor control, but it does support X-on/X-off, and it's in the public domain.



Or you can use Red Ryder: a former try-before-you-buy "shareware" product, this software is now a commercial offering. It supports lots of protocols, but still doesn't do much more than let your Mac input and display text.



Or you can use MacTerminal: developed by Apple, this software turns your Mac into a complete (but slow) VT100 terminal. Still, it's only text-based, and all the power of your Mac goes wasted.

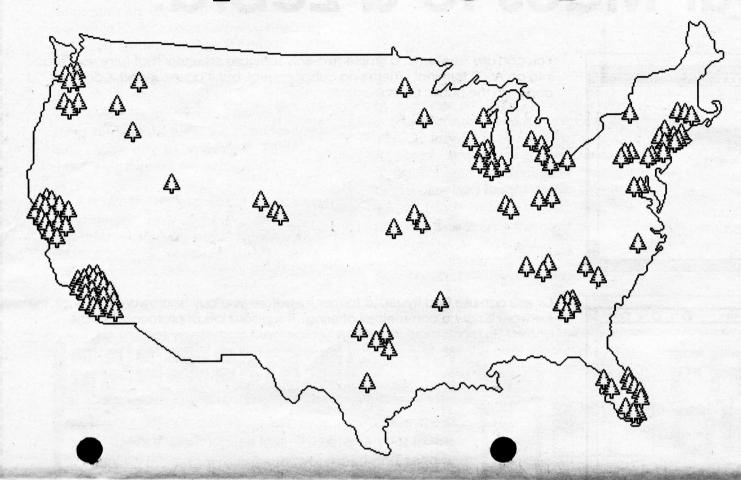


Or you can use Telefolders: sophisticated software that lets you tie your Zebra and Macs together, without losing the point-and-click power of the Macintosh interface. Mac files saved on the Zebra appear as standard icons, folders, and windows. To copy any Mac-style program, data, or document from the Zebra to your Macintosh, just click on the icon you want and select "Receive" from the Mac's pull-down menu. Each Mac also has access to its own private folder, for sending and receiving electronic mail via the Zebra.

Telefolders host software for the Zebra is \$995. A starter kit of Telefolders software for the Macintosh is \$49.95, and includes four free hours of access to Semaphore's own Zebra host, which features a large collection of Macintosh public domain software.

To order, or to receive more information, contact Semaphore Corporation, 207 Granada Drive, Aptos, CA 95003, (408) 688-9200.

New B-TREE-P installations are sprouting up every day!



B-TREE-P is software that allows your data to be instantly located and output, without having to wait for lengthy file sorts or searches. Join the growing number of sites discovering the power and flexibility of B-TREE-P. Write or call Semaphore Corp., 207 Granada Drive, Aptos, CA 95003, (408) 688-9200.

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